

10/763619

Please amend the paragraph on Page 12 beginning at line 26 as follows:

5' - ATAATTACTA GTTGTGCTCC AGTACCTCCA GGTGAAG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 5)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 12 beginning at line 28 as follows:

5' - ATAATTGGAT CCTCGAGTTA TTACATTGTC CGAAGAGCCC TCAGGC -3' (SEQ ID NO: 6)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 13 beginning at line 8 as follows:

The sequence of the PCR fragment (593 bp) with the structural gene for hIL6 is depicted below (read in the N-terminal to C-terminal direction). The restriction cleavage sites are underlined, and the first codon of hIL6 (Ala) and the stop codon are printed in bold:

ATAATTACTAGTTGT**GCT**CCAGTACCTCCAGGTGAAGATTCTAAAGATGTAGCCGCCCCACACAGACAGCC
ACTCACCTCTTCAGAACGAATTGACAAACAAATTCGGTACATCCTCGACGGCATCTCAGCCCTGAGAAAGG
AGACATGTAACAAGAGTAACATGTGTGAAAGCAGCAAGAGGCACTGGCAGAAAACAACCTGAACCTTCCA
AAGATGGCTGAAAAAGATGGATGCTTCCAATCTGGATTCAATGAGGAGACTTGCCTGGTAAAAATCATCAC
TGGTCTTTTGGAGTTTGAGGTATACCTAGAGTACCTCCAGTTCCTGCAGAAAAGGCAAGAATCTAGATGCAATA
GAGCTGTGCAGATGAGTACAAAAGTCCTGATCCAGTTCCTGCAGAAAAGGCAAGAATCTAGATGCAATA
ACCACCCCTGACCCAACCACAAATGCCAGCCTGCTGACGAAGCTGCAGGCACAGAACCAGTGGCTGCAGGA
CATGACAACCTCATCTCATTCTGCGCAGCTTTAAGGAGTTCCTGCAGTCCAGCCTGAGGGCTCTTCGGCAA
TG**TAATA**ACTCGAGGATCCAATTAT (SEQ ID NO: 7)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 13 beginning at line 21 as follows:

The sequence of the N^{pro}-hIL6 fusion protein (347 amino acids, of which 162 amino acids for the N^{pro} portion and 185 amino acids for the hIL6 portion), encoded on NP6-pET is depicted below, with the hIL6 sequence being printed in bold:

MASHHHHHHHFVGVEEPVYDTAGRPLFGNPSEVHPQSTLKLPHDRGRGDIRTTLRDLPRKGDRCRSGNHLGP
VSGIYIKPGPVYYQDYTGVPVYHRAPLEFFDEAQFCEVTKRIGRVTGSDGKLYHIYVCVDGCILLKLAKRG
PRTLKWI RNFTNCP LWVTSCA**FPVPPGEDSKDVAAPHRQPLTSSERIDKQIRYILDGISALRKETCNKSNMC**
ESSKEALAENNINLPKMAEKDGCFSQSGFNEETCLVKIITGLLEFEVYLEYLQNRFSSEEQARAVQMSTKV
LIQFLQKKAKNLDAITTPDPTTNASLLTKLQAQNQLQDMTTHLILRSFKEFLQSSLRALRQM (SEQ ID NO: 8)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 15 beginning at line 23 as follows:

Oligonucleotide 1 ("N-terminal"):

5' - ATAATTACTA GTTGTGTGTA TCTGCCTCAA ACCCACAGCC -3' (SEQ ID NO: 9)

Please amend the paragraph on Page 15 beginning at line 25 as follows:

Oligonucleotide 2 ("C-terminal"):